THURSTON COUNTY RAINBOW COALITION

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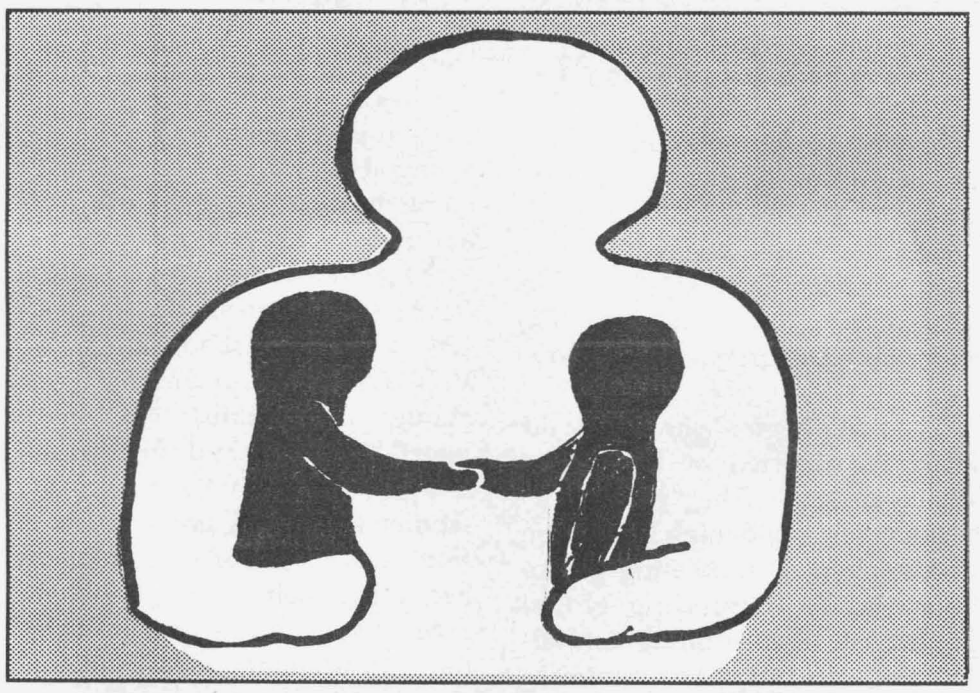
WORKS IN PROGRESS

"Instead of higher standard of living, why not a higher standard of loving?" Antler, from *Last Words*

Resolution Without Litigation

Meta Heller



The Dispute Resolution Center of Thurston County celebrated its first year of existence September 16th at the Olympia Timberland Library with an amazing demonstration of telephone conciliation between several sets of aggrieved parties. Congratulations and a birthday cake followed.

The Dispute Resolution Center (DRC) is uniquely qualified to solve conflicts between tenants and landlords, consumers and merchants, neighbors, citizens and government agencies, employees and employers, small claims court cases, families in conflict, divorcing parents and civil complaints. As an impartial go-between, it also handles complaints of racial harassment.

Telephone conciliations are free. Over 700 calls have been received to date; 75 became cases for resolution between parties over the phone. Of these, 50 cases reached settlement.

Director Evan Ferber said, "Most of the inquiring residents were helped to think through their conflict, which they then found they could resolve on their own. In some instances, inquiries were referred to other agencies."

The other 25 cases became sit-down mediations, the grieving parties sitting down with a mediator. Residents receiving this formal mediation service are charged $5, $10 or $25 per session, depending on their ability to pay. Most mediations involve one or two sessions before reaching an agreement. This year 78% resolved their differences in this manner culminating in a formal, written settlement.

Since 1984 when the legislature authorized Dispute Resolution Centers as a low-cost alternative to the courts, six counties have set them up. They are funded by $5 per each District Court filing fee, $10 from each Small Claims Court grants, and by appropriations from county or municipal governments. This year the DRC received $25,000 from Thurston County and a $2,000 grant from the Legal Foundation of Washington, in addition to the court system fees.

The DRC is staffed with two half-time workers, 15 phone volunteers and 10 mediators. They operate 7.5 hours per day, five days a week. In addition, they have a 13-member board and a host of volunteers who serve on the Speakers Bureau, write grants, pay bills and mail newsletters. With business booming, in 1992 the DRC plans to double its budget, double its staff, and do more community outreach.

Since March, 77 persons have attended public training workshops. Many have become telephone conciliators or otherwise involved. Once a month telephone conciliators meet to share information and practice skills.

Prospective mediators must take special training at their own expense. Ten persons are now qualified mediators. Another 13 are apprentices observing conciliations and co-mediating with the experienced core of 10.

There are ways to learn more about dispute resolution. Representatives from the Speakers Bureau have spoken to over 30 agencies, clubs, service organizations, and community groups. A brochure is available through the DRC (956-1155) as well as through agencies that refer persons to them: Housing Authority of Thurston County, the Consumer Affairs Division of the Attorney General's Office, the Thurston County District Court, and other social service and law enforcement offices. A videotape demonstrating mediation may also be requested.

For 1992, two new ambitious outreach programs are planned. One is to help citizens participate in large-group public policy planning such as the meeting being held county-wide for land-use under the new Growth Management Act. The second is to offer schools training to help them establish peer mediation among students so they can settle their own squabbles.

With all the frustrations and perceived injustices in this imperfect world, the DRC offers people a way to cope. "Most people don't want to go around angry," says Evan Ferber. "They want to settle their disputes and feel better."

Individuals are invited to call 956-1155, Mon - Fri, 9 am to 4:30 pm, for information and services. Or write to Dispute Resolution Center of Thurston County PO Box 10348 Olympia, WA 98502.

Meta is a member of the Georgists, SPEECH, Thurston County Rainbow Coalition, Fellowship of Reconciliation, and has written for WIP in the past.

Director Evan Ferber said, "Most of the inquiring residents were helped to think through their conflict, which they then found they could resolve on their own. In some instances, inquiries were referred to other agencies."

Working Class Judge Presides

Lou Cannon

Last September, Charles W. Johnson, an obscure attorney, scored a stunning political upset by defeating the respected chief justice of the Washington State Supreme Court in a primary election marked by the almost total absence of campaigning.

...Johnson has demonstrated that an attorney who prides himself on a common-sense approach can make important contributions to a court rich in legal experience.

...He called himself a "blue-collar attorney" and made it a point not to represent corporations. He says he sometimes struggled to pay taxes and was sensitive to clients' concerns about the high cost of litigation....

Although Johnson declines to label himself, his [case] dissent seemed to mark him as an exponent of the judicial liberalism for which the Washington court once was noted. Johnson said his judicial heroes are two of the US Supreme Court's most famous liberals, William O. Douglas and Earl Warren...

Discussing the conservative trend of the US Supreme Court, Johnson expresses concern for what he terms "a judicial erosion of individual rights." He talks about the recent ruling upholding limits on nude dancing and about cases that have allowed police to search motorists' cars on mere suspicion.

"How does the innocent person who has had his car torn apart feel?" Johnson asks. "He has no cause of action. Rights are not there for criminals. They're for everyone."...

While most of Johnson's decisions have not involved major precedents, [Justice Richard P.] Guy observes that measures involving abortion and the "right-to-die" are ... likely to wind up before a court "on which Johnson could be a member for more than 30 years."

How Johnson performs could have far-reaching relevance. In states such as Washington where specific guarantees of individual rights go beyond those of the US Constitution, liberal judges increasingly are relying on state law rather than restrictive interpretations of the federal judiciary. Johnson has joined the Washington court at a time when it is narrowly divided on many issues...

Excerpted from The Washington Post National Weekly Edition, August 26-September 1, 1991, Page 15.

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Letters

Pro-Choice is not Pro-Abortion

Dear Editors:

When I first read Matt Love's October column, I became very disgusted and now that I read it again I am irritated as well. Initially I was upset by his easy manner (sarcastic and condescending, in my opinion) of dismissing my right to a safe and legal abortion by quoting a handful of feminists who are opposed to choice: *'I think most progressive folks know deep inside that violence is wrong, and that defending abortion requires mental contortions.'* It reminds me of the Bush administrations selection of Clarence Thomas to the Supreme Court, a man who least represents people of color and a man who did his best to make the EEOC as ineffective as possible.

Mr. Love describes in his column a young woman who survived a saline abortion and who has over come the resulting physical effects and quotes, *'she is just so beautiful, cheerful, a bright spirit - a real walking triumph of light over darkness.'* Matt Love was in high school when Roe V. Wade legalized abortion, old enough to remember what happened before this judicial decision. It was common knowledge then that women were dying horrible deaths from back alley abortions. I remember seeing their pictures in magazines: women in grotesque positions, dead, abandoned by illegal abortionists. Women who were already alive, who had become bright stars. What might they have continued to be? I heard stories of women hemorrhaging, taken to the emergency ward by friends, facing sterility if they lived. If by the quoted statement, *'When we touch that inner awareness of the logic of love, some will find it immediately clear that we must strive for a better way.'* we must ignore the situation of women in this society of being hated and add to that by denying them reproductive control and control over their own bodies, I see very little logic or love.

The insinuation that Pro-Choice and 'consistent-lifer', as he quoted, are diametrically opposed by his use in describing Jesse Jackson as a consistent-deather' is simply too simplistic and far from accurate. Pro-Choice is not pro-abortion or anti-abortion, it is simply for choice. Those who support this view make no judgement on an individual's decision. They, like Jesse Jackson, may not agree with a woman's decision to have an abortion, yet they will not force their personal beliefs on her. Choice, the right to make up one's own mind.

As for the question: *'Did I leave the Left or did the Left leave me?'* He did. Absolutely.

Sylvia Smith

For the Common Good

For the Common Good: Redirecting the Economy Toward Community, the Environment, and a Sustainable Future by Herman Daly and John Cobb, Jr. (Beacon Press, 1989) $14.95 Paperback

Environmentalists must read For the Common Good. It is as important as Silent Spring was in raising consciousness. Furthermore, it is the best explanation of economics I have ever read--but much more. Understand the fallacies of modern economics and you find the path to sustainability--now and in the future.

For the Common Good is an "aha!" book. It pulls everything together. This is no small accomplishment in a world of despairing realities. Hope lies in using our intelligence to correct the "misguided concreteness" of modern economics. ("Misguided concreteness" is a term borrowed from the process philosopher Alfred North Whitehead.)

You bet we can have an Earth community with a moral, ethical basis that applies equally to a living biosphere and all its creatures. Only practical solutions are offered, no fuzzy dreams. The primary solutions are application of fiscal policy (taxes) to any market economy.

The book also gives us a new way to measure progress--an index of Sustainable Economic Welfare--far superior to the indices of the Gross National Product, Net National Income or others.

This extraordinary book is written by an economist, Herman Daly, now with the International Monetary Fund, and a theologian, John Cobb, Jr., a Methodist. Converging concepts in these diverse fields is itself extraordinary. Yet, how else could anyone touch the heart while expressing the urgency of the moment?

The book begins with the "wild facts" as reported by the World Watch Institute. The "wild facts" are realities: a widening hole in the ozone layer, accumulating greenhouse gases, exploding global population, disintegrating community life worldwide, fast-diminishing fossil fuels, forests, minerals, etc. We are reminded that with "business as usual" (growth) we have only until 2050 before reaching irreversible environmental disequilibrium and an unsustainable global economy.

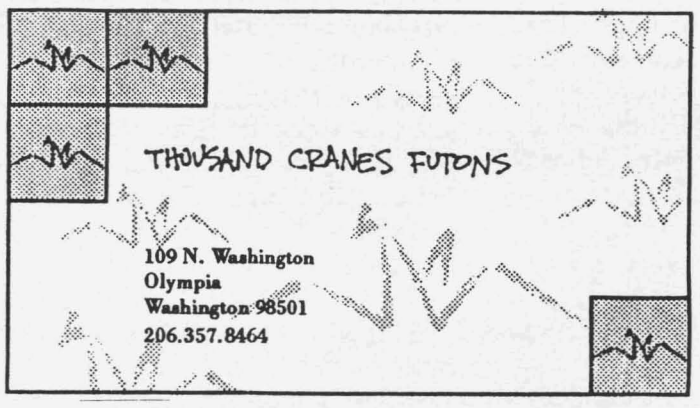
The moment of truth is here. Individual awareness, recycling, eating lower on the food chain, exhortation, prayer are not enough. We must change our economic system. We must decentralize, narrow the gap between rich and poor, use market system pricing to curb wasting natural resources and to stem the tide of global pollution.

Daly and Cobb tell us how to do this through the proper balance of taxes at the national, state, and county/city levels. Some old familiar taxes are discarded; some new ones advocated.

Anyone can understand taxes when one feels the urgency. You will love their recommendations.

Are you tired of growth, listening to an endless litany of problems, piecemeal solutions? Take heart. Read this book. Then explain the solutions to everyone--and feel like a savior.

Reviewed by Meta Heller.



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Exposé of G.E.

Evergreen's Master of Environmental Studies Graduate Student Association and EPIC (Evergreen Political Information Center) will co-sponsor a fundraising event for INFACT Northwest on Wednesday, November 20th in Lecture Hall 3 at 7:00 p.m. on the Evergreen campus.

"Deadly Deception," a 28-minute film produced by INFACT will be the focal point of the event. In this award winning documentary, INFACT challenges General Electric's claim that it "brings good things to life," by exposing the corporate giant's reckless environmental practices and unethical treatment of employees and innocent citizens. Speakers, entertainment and food are also on the agenda.

INFACT is effectively running an international grassroots boycott campaign aimed at forcing nuclear weapons industry leader General Electric out of that deadly business. Since 1986, the boycott has cost G.E. several hundred million dollars in lost sales with $40 million lost in medical equipment sales alone.

Founded in 1977, INFACT sparked a successful ten nation boycott of the sale of Nestle infant formula in developing countries.

Admission is $5.00 at the door. For more information, call 866-6000, ext. 6479 or 6144.

Blame Capitalism

Dear sir,

In response to the article in the October issue of Works In Progress "Capitalism Falsely Accused" I would like to say that one cannot blame one part of capitalism for problems in the system. Either you get rid of all of capitalism or not at all. Money must be done away with and gold used only for artistic pursuits. The workers also must be given full payment for their labor which is impossible under a capitalist system. It is way past the time for a cooperate socialist form of government that serves all mankind and not a few extremely wealthy parasites. Karl Marx has been ignored too long in the United States and Russia.

Milton Poulos

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Works In Progress is a community newspaper sponsored by the Thurston County Rainbow Coalition. Opinions expressed do not necessarily reflect those of the Rainbow Coalition or the WIP Editorial Board.

Keep those letters and cards coming. Correspondence and articles are always welcome. If possible submit articles on disk (WordPerfect). WIP reserves the right to publish in whole or part all submissions; so for editing purposes please enclose your phone number. Send submissions to Works in Progress, PO Box 295, Olympia, WA 98507.

"With Our Heads Up": Worker's Struggles, 1990-91

Paul Ortiz

Bob Black's article "No Future for the Workplace," that appeared in October's WIP that "Workers at work [are] passive aggressive. Not for [them] the collective solidarity heroics of labor's past."

I suggest instead that Bob Black's thinking is in fact itself an artifact of the dead past. Workers are not as passive as Black suggests. My article will survey just a few instances of recent worker activism and collectivism and suggest sources for this resurgent labor activity.

At Delta Pride, the largest catfish cannery in the world, the mostly female African American work force went out on strike in September , 1990. Workers protested low wages and grotesque working conditions.

The strike was viewed as suicidal by many. The cannery is in Mississippi, not exactly a haven for workers, especially African American ones. Instead of defeat however, the workers, members of the United Food and Commerical Workers Local 1529, assisted by civil rights advocates across the country, forged a great victory. On December 15, 1990, the cannery workers won significant pay raises, expanded break times, and a union enforce grievance policy to combat racism and sexism by supervisors and employers. "We can go back to work with our heads up," stated a Delta Pride worker.

Migrant farm workers in Oregon made history last summer by halting the cucumber harvest for two days, winning a strike, and inspiring other Hispanic farm workers in Oregon to strike for decent pay. The farm workers have created their own organization, the Northwest Treeplanters and Farmworkers United, "known as PCUN, its, Spanish acronym." Oregon farm workers are increasingly looking to PCUN for union representation and protection.

If workers have forgotten "collective solidarity heroics of labor's past," why are they successfully recreating the labor movement in environments as diverse as El Paso sweatshops, (see WIP October, 1991), Mississippi canneries, and Oregon cucumber farms?

Two elements account for the rebirth of the labor movement. (I will deal with the second element in a subsequent article.) First, an increasing proportion of North American workers both within the organized labor movement and outside it are minorities and women facing the worst working conditions on the continent. These workers are learning and teaching each other the values of solidarity and mutualism as antidotes to the new age individualism responsible for exploitive workplaces. In addition, these workers are beginning to organize not only their workplaces but their communities in order to gain justice.

For instance, the El Paso garment worker's organization, La Mujer Obrera (The Working Woman) states that its members have the right "to negotiate as a group in order to better their living and working conditions." Mujer Obrera has also created a mutual aid organization and a labor-community coalition in El Paso. These workers expand their collective strength even while they are struggling for union representation.

Like Mujer Obrera, the North Carolina based Black Workers for Justice (BWFJ) campaign hinges on collective action and coalition building. Seeking "to build a labor movement in the South," BWFJ is developing "proto-union workplace committees that fight around immediate issues while preparing the way for potentia union drives." Like Mujer Obrera, BWFJ runs a worker's health clinic. BWFJ "also involves itself in numerous community struggles around issues of toxic waste and Black land loss in the highly segregated eastern North Carolina Black Belt." In addition, BWFJ actively seeks alliances with labor, church, and community groups. With these groups, BWFJ is planning a national march on November 2 to mourn the recent deaths of 25 North Carolina poultry workers, and to agitate for improved safety conditions in U.S. workplaces.

The United Farm Workers of Washington State (UFFWS) likewise realizes the value of labor-community coalitions. UFFWS, attempting to win basic civil rights for farm workers in this state, conducts outreach work to numerous organizations and cities in Washington, including Olympia. Now, a wide variety of community organizations such as the Washington Association of Churches, CISPES, and Nurse Union Local 1199 endorse the farm worker's boycott of the wines of Chateau Ste Michelle. This company has millions to spend on bicentennial celebrations and fairy tale castles but claims that it can't afford to let its Mexican-American workers vote for the union of their own choice! UFFWS's strategy is beginning to pay off as increasing numbers of consumers across the state are reading leaflets asking them to avoid Chateau Ste Michelle wines until vineyard workers are treated with the dignity and respect all human beings deserve. (The Olympia Movement for Justice and Peace is building support for the farm worker's movement in Olympia. Please call 866-8018 in order to help out.

In short, a growing number of minority and women workers are responding to workplace deprivation in the fields and factories with collective action and community coalition building. These innovative tactics that hinge on the values of reciprocity and community have caught many rapacious employers off guard. Finally, despite Bob Black's Wall Street Journal logic, U.S. workers have little need to simply look to the past for examples of collectivism. They are forging solidarity here and now.

Paul Ortiz is a member of the Olympia Movement for Justice and Peace. OMJP has meetings every second and fourth Wednesday each month.

...the United Food and Commerical Workers Local 1529, assisted by civil rights advocates across the country, forged a great victory.

KAOS RADIO SEEKS COMMUNITY SUPPORT

KAOS radio 89.3 FM, has recently completed it's annual pledge drive to raise operating funds for the next year. Through listener support, we were able to secure pledges totalling over $15,000. While our goal was $17,500, we are pleased with the support we've received from the public who recognize the value of a community-access public radio station. KAOS radio is excited to announce The Olympia Public Radio Project (OPRP), a comprehensive plan for the advancement of Olympia Public Radio.

Step One of the OPRP concentrates on KAOS acquiring a satellite antenna which will enable the station to connect with National Public Radio's satellite distribution system. Once our satellite down-link is in place, KAOS will become a local source for Pacifica news service and other nationally distributed programming. The Public Radio Satellite System is the primary mechanism for the distribution of radio programming. Through the satellite system, KAOS will be able to access regional, national and international programs which are not carried by other area stations. Acquired programs may cover the full range of news, public affairs, entertainment and the performing arts, and are available from hundreds of producers and services, including Pacifica, Women's International News Gathering Service, National Native News,as well as American Public Radio, Canadian Broadcasting Corporation and National Public Radio.

The Public Telecommunications Facilities Program (PTFP) has awarded $25,439 to KAOS to acquire the satellite antenna and other equipment for our new studio. To take advantage of this grant, KAOS must match the PTFP funds dollar for dollar. You can help us meet this challenge by making a tax-deductible contribution to KAOS. Simply send a donation to The Olympia Public Radio Project, KAOS, The Evergreen State College, Olympia, Washington 98505.

Here's another way you can help: Save your grocery receipts from Top Foods, Bayview Market, Food Pavilion, Ralph's Thriftway or Hawks-Prairie Market. KAOS will receive 1% of your total receipt amount directly for the Public Radio Project! Send grocery receipts to KAOS, Box 11, The Evergreen State College, Olympia, 98505.

After acquisition of the Satellite system, KAOS radio will embark on Step Two of the Olympia Public Radio Project. This will entail improvement of the broadcast signal in our primary service area, and extension of coverage to more distant locales in Thurston, Lewis and Gray Harbor counties. For further information on the Olympia Public Radio Project, call Michael Huntsberger at (206) 866-6000 x6397 during regular weekday business hours.

-by Tom Freeman, KAOS Program Director

For Women Only

A series of classes in receiving and providing Alternative Health Care. Presented by: Dr. Jennifer Booker Naturopathic Physician Family Health Care 203 E. 4th Olympia, WA 98501 754-0104

Nov 7th Women and PMS You don't have to just live with it. Foods and herbs are effective in correcting this imbalance.

Nov 14th Women and Menopause This normal phase of life is surrounded by myths. It can be a healthy transition.

Nov 21st Women and Weight On becoming your healthiest best, learning self-love and rejecting stereotypes.

Dec 6th Your Healthy Child Antibiotics, daycare germ pools, and the link between diet and behavior.

All classes include at-home alternative therapies.

All classes begin 7pm sharp

Presented at Red Apple Natural Foods 400 Cooper Point Rd. NW 357-8779

It's Free

A Review of Communism

Alexander Cockburn

They said Tuesday that the line in front of Lenin's tomb was longer than it had ever been, country folk visiting Moscow to catch a glimpse of the old fellow before they clear the mausoleum, pending conversion to a trade mart, Pizza Hut or some kindred symbol of the new dawn.

When Lenin was in exile in Zurich during the First World War, before the sealed train brought him back to Russia in 1917, he used to visit a restaurant frequented by bohemian types, Dada painters and poets, and low-lifers of one sort or another. A young Romanian poet called Marcu later wrote an account of a chat he had with Lenin there.

" 'You see,' he said, 'why I take my meals here. You get to know what people are really talking about. Nadezhda Konstantinovna [Lenin's wife, Krupskaya] is sure that only the Zurich underworld frequents this place, but I think she is mistaken. To be sure, Maria is a prostitute. But she does not like her trade. She has a large family to support—and that is no easy matter. As to Frau Prellog, she is perfectly right. Did you hear what she said? Shoot all the officers!'

"Then Lenin said to me, 'Do you know the real meaning of this war?'

" 'What is it?' I asked.

" 'It is obvious,' he replied. 'One slaveholder, Germany, who owns one hundred slaves, is fighting another slaveholder, England, who owns two hundred slaves, for a "fairer" distribution of the slaves.'

" 'How can you expect to foster hatred of this war,' I asked at this point, 'if you are not in principle against all wars? I thought that as a Bolshevik you were really a radical thinker and refused to make any compromise with the idea of war. But by recognizing the validity of some wars, you open the doors for every opportunity. Each group can find some justification of the particular war of which it approves. I see that we young people can only count on ourselves . . . '

"Lenin listened attentively, his head bent toward me. He moved his chair closer to mine. He must have wondered whether to continue to talk to this boy or not. I, somewhat awkwardly, remained silent.

" 'Your determination to rely on yourselves,' Lenin finally replied, 'is very important. Every man must rely on himself. Yet he should also listen to what informed people have to say. I don't know how radical you are, or how radical I am. I am certainly not radical enough. One can never be radical enough; that is, one must always try to be as radical as reality itself.' "

From Lenin to Talcum Powder

That last line has always been one of my favorites, and I hope to be using it long after the last bust of the man Reagan insisted on calling Nikolai has been ground down to talcum powder.

Those coup makers who now await trial, or who have committed suicide (or had their suicides involuntarily administered; a lot of people "committed suicide" during the purges too), had certainly ceased to be as radical as reality. So too had Gorbachev. Somewhere in these last six years there surely was a chance for a Third Way, leading neither back to the lost world of the coup makers nor to the neo-liberal agenda now shaping up.

But probably Gorbachev never had a chance, because after Khrushchev was ousted the long narcolepsy of the Brezhnev years irretrievably wrecked the Soviet Union's hopes of establishing any successful rendezvous with a modernized socialist economy. At the very moment in the 1970s and 1980s that capitalism was learning to be hyper-flexible—to the great cost of workers and peasants the world over—the Soviet Union became more rigid and inflexible. As I once remarked here, to the great rage of many, the Brezhnev years were a Golden Age for the Soviet working class. Indeed, they were in terms of economic advance (just as the fifties and sixties were for its white North American counterpart) but they couldn't last, and now those workers' sons and daughters will face diminishing expectations as neo-liberal market norms take them by the throat.

And why did narcolepsy thus extinguish hope? Because, long since, the Communist Party had become the expression of a corrupted elite, a spoils allotment system. Just as the allocation system presided over by Gosnab (dismembered by Yeltsin in the Russian Republic at the start of this week) had become hopelessly unwieldy and choked up, so too had the party suffocated initiative and creativity.

Not Enough Shovels

"The heritage of the great Lenin is lost," Stalin cried out when he was informed of the German invasion of 1941. Twenty million Soviet lives later that heritage, already mangled by the horrors of the 1930s, had been saved. After the Second World War Soviet industrial growth ran at an average of just under 10 percent a year through the 1950s. By 1956 Khrushchev was telling the West, "We will bury you," and the words did not seem lunatic. A decade later the Soviet economy began to slow, and the gravedigger leaned ever more heavily upon his spade, in a premonition of the exhaustion that came with the seventies.

Now comes accelerating Balkanization of what was formerly the Union, strife between the republics, looting of resources by foreign powers, and extension of German influence up to the Urals meeting the Japanese coming the other way, in the conclusion of what Hitler started in 1941. A year or two from now Boris Yeltsin may be able to stand atop the converted mausoleum and view the parade of new times: Soviet lumbermen under the command of Georgia Pacific and the Japanese; oil drillers bearing the standard of Conoco; long battalions of unemployed under the discipline of the Chicago School.

It was Communists who spearheaded the fight for civil rights for black people in the United States in the 1930s; . . .Without the threat of the Soviet Union there would have been no Marshall Plan.

Red Stars in the Sunset

The weekend that Gorbachev resigned as party leader and plumes of smoke began rising from party archives across the country I was at a conference on anti-corporate environmental strategies, hosted in Los Angeles by the Labor/Community Watchdog. There were plenty of intelligent, radical people there. There was much talk and analysis of the victory of Salinas de Gortari and the PRI in Mexico, about the need for internationalism and building of ties in the new era of the *maquiladota* and the unending corporate search for cheaper labor and laxer laws. I barely heard the Soviet Union or the collapse of the Communist system mentioned until I brought up the matter myself in the course of some remarks on the last day. A friend who'd gone that weekend to a conference of the Union of Radical Political Economists in upstate New York said the same thing happened there.

The Soviet Union's disintegration, the end to what electrified the world and horrified capital three-quarters of a century ago, didn't seize the imagination of these conference-goers (or maybe, for some in the older crowd, it was a matter of just preferring to talk about something else, because there wasn't too much to say). Like any other 50-year-old I felt sad. The Soviet Union defeated Hitler and fascism. Without it, the Cuban Revolution would never have survived, nor the Vietnamese. In the postwar years it was the counterweight to U.S. imperialism and the terminal savageries of the old European colonial powers. It gave support to any country trying to follow an independent line. Without it, just such a relatively independent country as India could instead have taken a far more rightward course. Despite Stalin's suggestion to Mao that he and his comrades settle for only half a country, the Chinese Revolution probably would not have survived either.

It was Communists who spearheaded the fight for civil rights for black people in the United States in the 1930s; and without the threat of the Soviet model in the competition for the loyalties of the Third World, Truman probably would not have felt the pressure to desegregate the Army when he did, though of course there were domestic pressures on him too. Without the threat of the Soviet Union there would have been no Marshall Plan. The C.I.A. would never have retained my friend Ben Sonnenberg or sent Gloria Steinem to the World Youth Festival in Helsinki. Ben wouldn't have been able to tell the story in his wonderful memoir, *Lost Property*. There wouldn't have been . . . Well, write your own list. There wouldn't have been the International Brigades, the workers who had crossed the Atlantic or ridden the rails across Europe to Spain.

But I could see too why the young folk at the conference felt the way they did. As long as half a century after Spain and after the heroism of the Communist-led resistance movements of the Second World War, the Soviet Union offered dwindling allotments of inspiration, however many barrels of oil it gave to the Cubans, or guns to the Vietnamese. And besides, Soviet disintegration stands well back in the sequence of disasters that have overtaken the Third World in the past two decades. The people in Los Angeles were discussing the havoc wrought by hyper-flexible capitalism: runaway plants on the Mexican border standing amid pools of poisonous waste; cholera in Peru and malnutrition and disease across the Southern tier; environmental regulations at the local, state and federal level in this country facing annulment by the provisions of the U.S.-Mexico free-trade agreement. The Soviet Union's future will be a familiar chapter.

Outside a few enclaves of state-assisted capital around the world the trend-lines are now all down, as the tensions and desperation rise. For the future of Lenin's heritage we need only study what is happening in Yugoslavia and imagine those horrors on a far vaster and more savage scale.

It's History

A couple of days into post-communism a friend of mine said he was off to the hypnotist to stop smoking. While he was at it, he said, he might as well get the whole Communist era wiped out as well. It would be soothing, a straight transition from Kerensky and the Duma to Yeltsin and the Russian Parliament, with everything in between a blur. Whatever happened to that nice Czar Nicholas? Collectivization, what's that? Joseph who?

Russians, hauling down the statues and cleaning out the mausoleum, seem mustard keen on wiping out their history all over again, just as they have so many times in this century— very much the reverse of what Boris Kagarlitsky remarked to me in Moscow in 1987 as we chatted underneath a statue of a czarist general, a hero of Pamyat: "People are crazy about history and eager to get the empty parts of the past filled in." Four years later it seems to be ending with more chunks of history being sent off to the cellars.

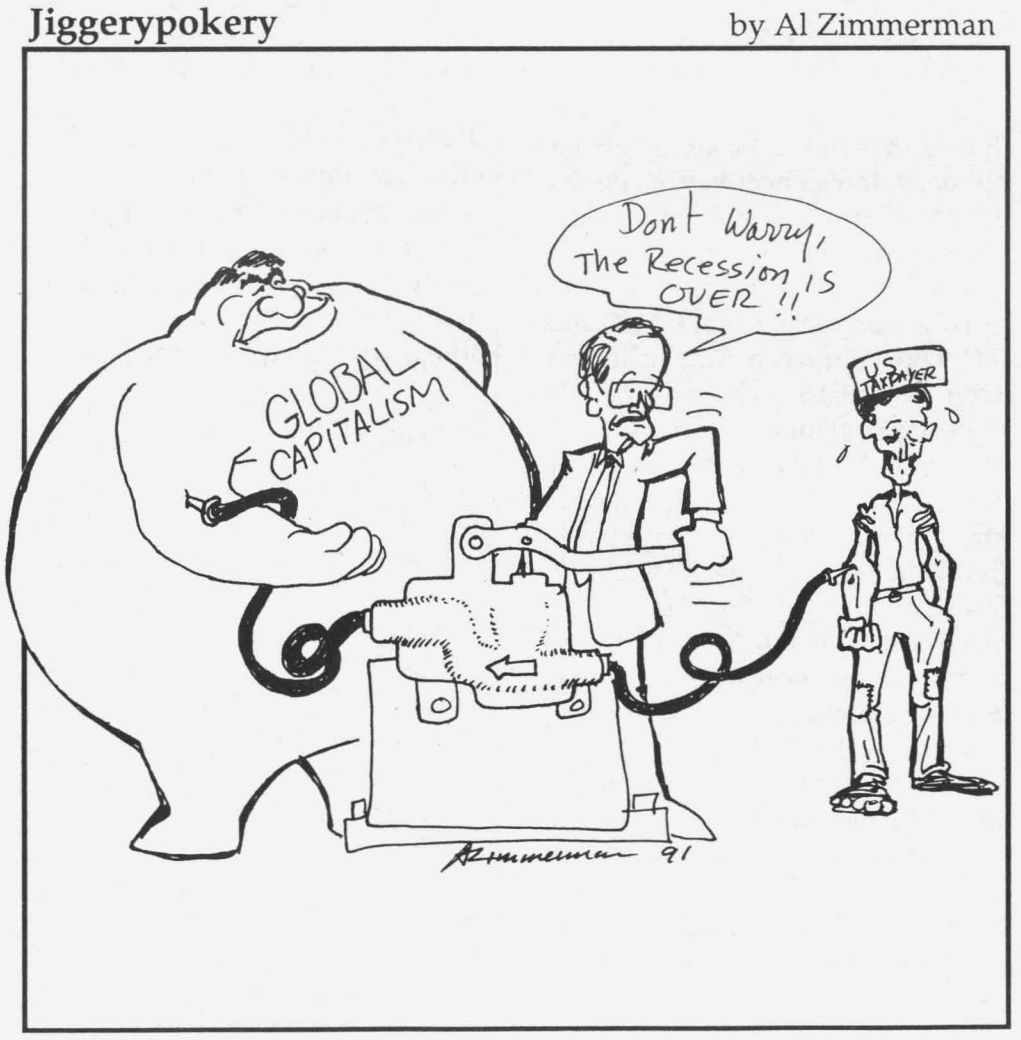
Almost since the moment the Bolshevik-led soldiers of the Petrograd garrison, sailors from Kronstadt and the workers' Red Guards stormed the Winter Palace in the early night hours of November 8,1917, tens of thousands of books— many of them covertly subsidized by the state—have been written in the capitalist West dedicated to the proposition that it was all a very bad idea, a detour from the proper course of history. This is an inane game. To say that the Russian Revolution was a bad idea is also to say that the First World War was a bad idea. In the latter case it was, but it happened; and because it happened, the revolution happened. The revolution wrought some bad things, but some good things too.

My father often talked to me about the If Only fallacy. Discussing the pact between the Soviet Union and Germany in 1939, he wrote in his memoir *Crossing the Line*, "Nobody can judge whether an historical event, an order to an army, a diplomatic maneuver, was a catastrophe or otherwise unless he is prepared to say at the same time what would have happened if that thing had not happened. And since nobody is in a position honestly to make such a statement about what the alternative would have been, the question is in the nature of things unanswerable and otiose."

It all happened, and at this juncture I'm reminded again of what the Vietnamese Dr. Vien wrote, as recently quoted here: "If a world front of capital is being founded, its counterweight, the democratic popular front on a world scale, is also in formation." We have a history to carry forward, so long as we remember what Lenin said to the young poet in Zurich seventy-five years ago.

Thanks to Regina Costa we are able to reprint this column.

Jiggerypokery by Al Zimmerman



Rethinking Rainbow Endorsement of Term Limitations

Tom Freeman

In last month's issue, I reported on TCRC's endorsement of Four Ballot measures, including Initiative 553 which would limit the number of times individuals could run for the same political office. At the time of our endorsement, the prospects of ending the incumbency stranglehold was enticing, especially if we take a look at Washington's House of Representatives which has a 50-year incumbent who has no grasp of contemporary issues and only votes his party line.

Since then, however, I've learned more about Initiative 553, and what I've discovered is disturbing. According to the League of Women Voters, "over 200 thousand dollars from right-wing sources outside [our] state paid for the signatures to put this issue on the ballot. A California firm was hired and paid on a per signature basis." In fact, most of the money for this campaign is being funneled into Washington state from wealthy east coast business interests. I have to wonder why there is so much outside interest in Washington State's political system and in who represents us in D.C.

The answer lies in the leadership of the House of Representatives. The Speaker of the House is none other than Washington state's Tom Foley, who represents areas in and around Spokane. Having a Washingtonian as the most powerful democrat in Congress virtually assures that Washington coasts are protected from offshore oil drilling, that our electricity rates stay low (each year Congress attempts to hike our rates 15 percent which has been quashed by our Congressional delegration), and that we will not once again become a colonial interest of Eastern financiers.

When I studied Washington history, I was surprised to learn that our state was originally populated to extract resources for east-coast businesses. Initially, Washington was not allowed to have its own government; it was, instead, ruled by Washington D.C. While our situation has improved, we still had to fight east coast politicians who sought to turn Hanford into the nation's nuclear dump-site, who have repeatedly attempted to open our shores to oil companies for drilling, and who even attempted to buy and control Seattle's Public Market to extract its profits for New York finance capitalists. (This last example is mainly illustrative as this particular case involved local Seattle government and was not an issue brought before the U.S. Congress).

According to the coalition of groups opposed to Initiative 553, "out-of-state money is being used to influence voters here. More than 90 percent of the funding reported to the state by backers of 553 has come from "Citizens for Congressional Reform" (CCR) of Washington D.C., identified by the New York Times (Sept.22) as connected to 'various conservative causes' seeking a 'short cut to Republican majorities.' Additionally, as recently reported by the Associated Press, CCR is a spin-off of another group called "Citizens for a Sound Economy" described as a 'right-wing think tank...controlled by one of America's richest families and a handful of Fortune 100 business executives."

The initiative will mean "loss of control over water supplies to California interests, where Los Angeles, Orange and San Diego Counties already can outvote twelve other Western states in the House (California will have 52 votes in the 1993 Congress, Washington 9)."

So what has stopped our coasts from threats of offshore drilling? What stopped Hanford from housing the east coast's toxic waste? What stops Congress from raising our electricity rates and importing the power sources of the Columbia dams to other states? According to the League of Women Voters and other progressive organizations, it is the fact that Washington has senior members of Congress who can protect our interests in the nation's capital. Tom Foley became Speaker of the House partially due to his seniority in the legislature, and due to the respect he has earned from his fellow representatives. If Washington approves Initiative 553, we will be the only state, other than Colorado, that limits U.S. Representatives to three two-year terms. Worse yet, unlike Colorado, our initiative does not include exemptions for those already in office. This means that Tom Foley will have to step down in the next election.

I have talked with a couple of friends who tell me that they consider term limitations to be undemocratic because it limits the public's right to choose the person viewed as doing the best job. If we are satisfied with Tom Foley, Jolene Unsoeld, or Brock Adams, why should a mandatory retirement rule prevent us from rewarding their work with another vote of confidence? If we are dissatisfied, why should we be denied the privelege of voting them out of office?

Today I received a phone call from a Rainbow supporter who was shocked to learn that we endorsed Initiative 553. We talked briefly about problems with term limitations and especially those defined in this Initiative. The power base of this country has always been the wealthy east coast states. Washington has had to fight to gain its stature and influence in the national legislature. With term limitations our representatives will perpetually be junior status, getting last choice of committee assignments and losing influence on important committees such as Budget, Appropriations and Environment.

So why did we endorse Initiative 553? I'd have to say that the proponents of the measure made a compelling argument. Furthermore, those opposed to the measure did not make a presentation at the meeting. Although I voted whole-heartedly for endorsement, I think we were naive to support the initiative. Only Dan Taylor [TCRC's other Co-coordinator] expressed reservations. In hindsight, I believe Dan was right. We cannot officially withdraw our endorsement, but I can publicly state my change of heart. After much soul-searching, research and numerous conversations, I intend to VOTE NO ON INITIATIVE 553!!! I am joining my allies at The League of Women Voters, Common Cause, Washington Environmental Council, Washington Federation of State Employees, NOW, Washington State Labor Council, the Puget Sound Council of Senior Citizens and others. I hope you will join us and disregard our endorsement of Initiative 553. Why let right-wing money and wealthy industrialists further control our legislature?

Tom Freeman, co-coordinator of the TCRC, hopes that concerned individuals will join the Thurston County Rainbow Coalition and become involved in Rainbow activities.

The power base of this country has always been the wealthy east coast states. . . . With term limitations our representatives will perpetually be junior status, getting last choice of committee assignments and losing influence on important committees such as Budget, Appropriations and Environment.

Next Rainbow Meeting:
November 9th
at the First Christian Church, 7th and Franklin, at 12:30 pm.
Please come

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Send to: Thurston County Rainbow Coalition, P.O. Box 295, Olympia, WA 98507. For information call 943-1810 or 456-4773.

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Why Public Opinion Never Reaches The Top

This fascinating piece was written by a worker in the Washington [Forest Service] Office and placed on the agency computer system. It reveals a great deal, not only about the strong public sentiment in favor of forest preservation, but also about how public opinion gets lost in Washington.

Since mid-September 1989, I have acted as the "controlled correspondence coordinator" for the Washington Office timber management. I got into this job to help TM become more efficient at meeting the "due dates" by following an established process.

A key role of that process is the "green jacket coordinator" whose job it is to read each letter sufficiently well to determine the subject and assign it to proper timber management sub-unit (sales, silviculture, plans and management) for a response.

So for the last few months, I have read hundreds of letters mailed to the president, the VP, the "first lady", the Secretary of Agriculture and Interior, members of Congress and the Chief. Reading these letters has proven to be a rich resource of what public opinion and perception is of the national forest management, timber management, on national forests, public land and private land, clear-cutting, rain forests (N. America, Hawaii and tropical) old growth (ancient forests) the Tongass, log exports to Japan, the value and benefit of trees, and the "forest situation" in the U.S.

Mainly, the authors of these letters are well aware of the benefits of trees for oxygen, climate, wildlife habitat, aesthetics and wood and paper. Most of the writers think that the person to whom they are writing is either unaware of the value and benefits of trees so they inform them, or encourage the president to plant more trees. But mainly they say stop the destruction of the forests here in the USA, especially on the national forests, and help stop it in the tropics too.

Often they're misinformed but they are always sincere. Quite often they start with phrases like, "I'm compelled to write," "I'm mad because..." I was shocked to learn from... Wilderness Society newsletter NY Times Article, ABC News about the Tongass, video on Opal Creek, or "Rage Over Trees" talk show on public radio and various other sources. Somebody('s) out there is getting their message out quite effectively and the people believe and are motivated to action. Lots of letters from kids who are taught about "destruction of tropical rain forests" in class and are shocked to learn from the teacher or the Discovery Channel that the USA and the Forest Service is doing it too, on "their" national forests.

What I have learned about the public perception is:

Clear-cuts: The term and the view make them angry. Most (99%) think that the term clear-cut means "permanent devastation." Even when they know the area is to be replanted they think it is too ugly to be an acceptable management tool. To clear-cut ancient forests, to export it to Japan to make it into paper or saran wrap is akin to selling your "birthright" and selling it cheap. The message they hear is that if these trees are cut, then these wild animals are gonna die.

National Forests: They are a treasure and the Forest Service is letting "industry" strip them bare and at a cheap price too. Most want national forests to be a "timber preserve;" saved to be used later, but not now. To be used to combat global warming, to make oxygen, to provide wildlife habitat, to be a last bastion of wilderness, a retreat from civilization.

To clear-cut ancient forests, to export it to Japan to make it into paper or saran wrap is akin to selling your "birthright" and selling it cheap.

Timber supply: Let the private land provide it. If it's scarce enough to cut old growth/ancient forests then why are we exporting it even from private land? Recycle to make paper, conserve on use.

Jobs: 10% say "save our jobs from "spotted owl people," etc. Most say retrain loggers, etc. into other work, move them to private land.

Community Stability: Not mentioned. Effect on economy? not touched on. Feeling you get from the letters is that they'd personally "take the hit" if it'd save their forests. On the Tongass, got many letters from Alaska residents, some in the timber industry and Juneau residents; "support Congressional action to reform/buyout long term contracts; and do it now!"

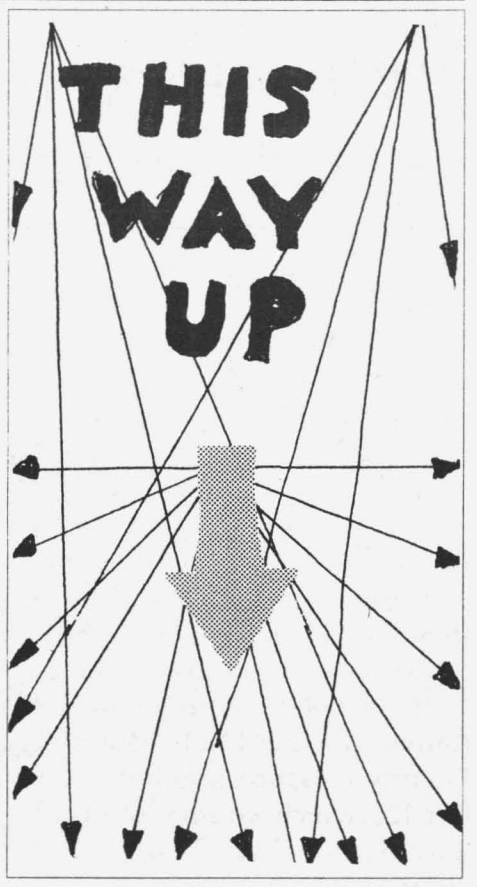
WRITERS: where do they come from? All over. They say the national forests are theirs no matter where they live, and!!! they know they own them and they're not pleased with what they are told/perceive/experience that the USFS is doing on "their" national forests. Well over half of the adults writing in are women, many are professionals. Lots of kids writing in. Many really worried about out the state of the world and their future or right now about the animals who live in the forests. They want trees left for their kids, some offer ideas for substitutes for paper. One young girl had learned in class that trees were being cut to grow grass for cattle. She said she'd quit eating meat if that would help save the trees. One young boy said he'd stayed up all night trying to find a substitute for making paper: had an idea and sent it to the president (USFS got the letter) - "Use the shells of nuts..."

SOURCES OF THEIR INFO AND CONCERNS: Environmental organization's ads, videos, newsletters, newspaper articles (local and national), editorials and bylines (often they send material with their letter), TV news, TV specials or personal experiences.

What do I think'? I think forestry, timber management and the USFS have a bad public image. I don't think that the Forest Service is making effective use of their "controlled correspondence" to survey public opinion, to analyze the message the public is getting, where it is coming from, who is sending it, what the effect is. Is our message reaching enough of them? How do we send it? Can we get into the classroom with our lesson plans? Do we have a message'?

Controlled correspondence should be recognized as a highly valuable, inexpensive survey of public opinion and perception because the writers are largely spontaneous, sincere and motivated to act. The shame is that they write to the President or to the Chief and they personally never read the letters so they're not influenced by them. Lower echelon staff read them and respond but lack the authority to alter the "course."

We're like the Exxon Valdez; the lookout reports to the bridge (several times) that the rock is close and coming fast. She thinks the captain is on the bridge. The bridge knows about the danger but doesn't know how to take the ship off automatic pilot. The



rest is history as they say.

What do we need? Since all the addressees cannot read all the letters, any large organization needs to create a lprocess so the message gets to the captain so the ship can react to the info being received.

If an organization has a public affairs unit and their job is to send out a corporate message to the right "target audience," then without this incoming mail (which is sent to many diggerent addresses in our case), they're missing a critical source of input. Right now it's wasted on this Olde Cajun who's only option is to conduct carpool or hallway seminars.

Often I feel like the Greek Goddess Diane who was blessed in being able to see the future but cursed in that no one would ever believe her.

- The Olde Cajun

This was reprinted with permission from The Inner Voice, Summer/Fall 1990. It is published by the Association of Forest Service Employees for Environmental Ethics, which is a non-profit corporation 501(C)(3) dedicated to promoting ecologically sustainable management practices and an environmentally sensitive resource management agencies, especially the Forest Service, through educational and outreach activities.

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Send your twenty dollar subscription to AFSEEE/Inner Voice PO Box 11615 Eugene, OR 97440

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Also on that day, there will be a WIP meeting at SPEECH at 7pm. All are encouraged to attend and get involved. Call 956-9123 for info.

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Freedom Coalition Endorsements

Curt Pavola

The Olympia Chapter of the Washington Freedom Coalition (WFC), a statewide civil rights advocacy group, has endorsed Bob Jacobs in the Olympia Mayoral race and Mark Foutch for council position #3. The WFC endorsement committee also calls for voters support Initiative 119, the Death With Dignity measure, and Initiative 120, which would protect a woman's right to choose an abortion.

WFC made its endorsements after surveying all candidates for the mayoral and council seats, then conducting follow-up, in-person interviews. The Freedom Coalition endorsement committee, composed of WFC members and members of the Olympia gay and lesbian community, feels that Bob Jacobs and Mark Foutch are the candidates most understanding of sexual minorities and most likely to protect the civil rights of all citizens.

Jacobs and Foutch stated support for a "domestic partnership" ordinance for the city of Olympia that would offer similar employee benefits to both married and unmarried workers who have established a long-term relationship. Foutch also suggested a method of equalizing compensation regardless of relationship status.

Similarly, both candidates expressed support for extension of the city's current civil rights ordinance to cover sexual minorities employed by private firms, while Jacobs noted a need for community education regarding this issue.

Responding to a suggestion that the city assist a private effort to establish an AIDS hospice in the same manner as the city has assisted low-income housing groups recently, Jacobs and Foutch agreed that an AIDS hospice is a needed and worthy cause. They support the concept of a city donation of land or housing that would help meet this community need.

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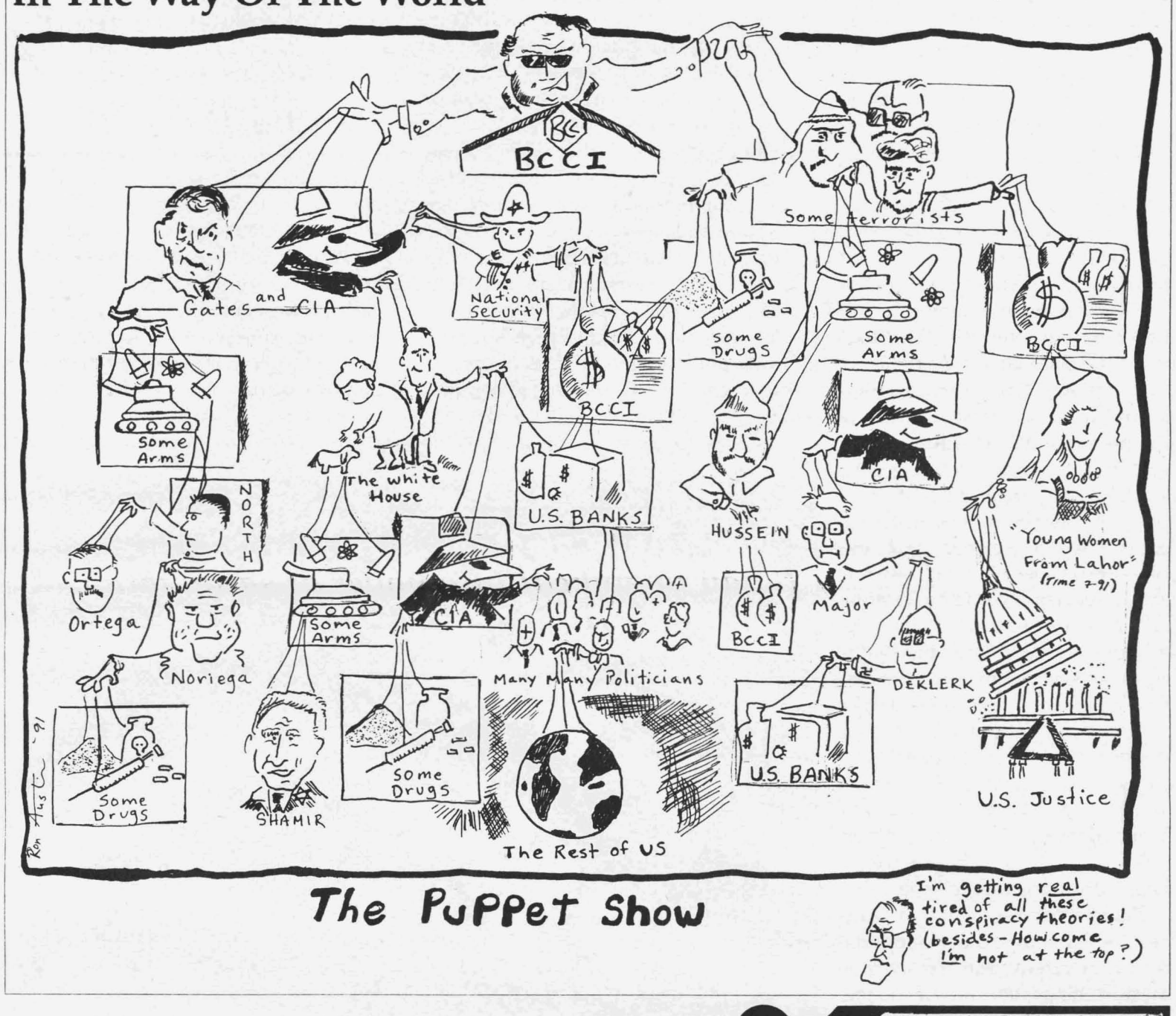
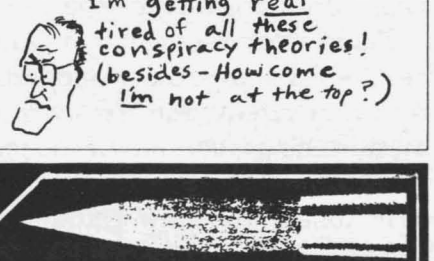
Works In Progress, c/o TCRC, PO Box 295, Olympia, WA 98507

In The Way Of The World

by Ron Austin



The Puppet Show



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Vehicle for a Small Planet: The Bicycle - Part 2

Matt Love

This is the second part of an interview conducted with Marcia Lowe of the World Watch Institute. I spoke with her last summer at the Evergreen State College. The first part of this interview, which was printed in the October issue of WiP, dealt with transportation issues in the United States. This part focuses primarily on transportation issues in the Third World.

MATT: In recent years, Europe has rejected the American automobile transportation model. What path is the Third World following?

MARCIA: In the developing world, I think it's safe to say many countries have wholeheartedly embraced the American highway automobile dependence model. And at least to the extent that further development can occur in a planned way.

And so you have cities like Mexico City where most people can't afford to drive or own a car, and yet the city is just choking on automobiles, and the smog is getting so bad that street venders sell oxygen.

Bangkok is also a traffic nightmare. Again, the vast majority of the population can't afford an automobile. There's relatively little evidence in most Third World countries that governments recognize what they've given up for this type of automobile orientation. There are relatively few examples of third world cities that have really come back around and tried to promote non-motorized transportation and really put their money where their mouth is.

There are a lot of reasons the big highway engineering projects are great for politicians, it's just like here - you have a legacy that's literally set in concrete. That's very appealing to decision makers.

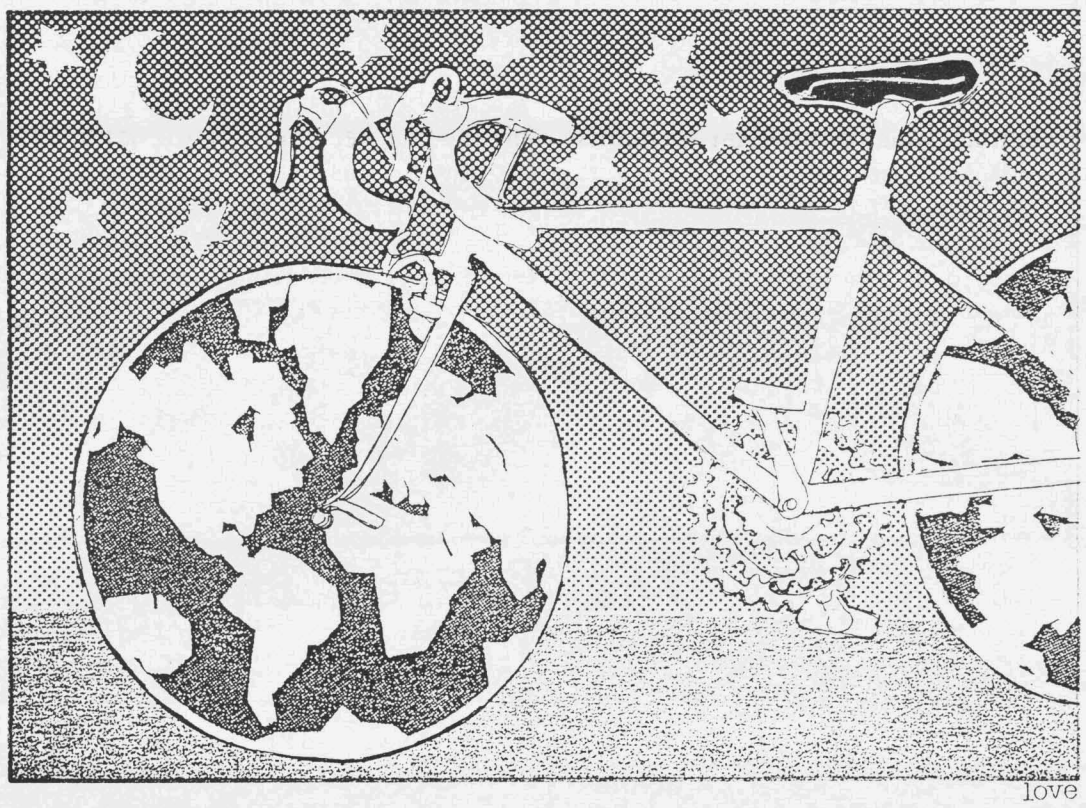
There are some outstanding examples (of alternative transportation models) in the developing world. China is certainly a country where the government recognized early on that the only way to provide good, high-quality transportation to the masses would be to promote bicycle use, because they just couldn't afford to create a mass transit system that would serve everyone for all of their needs. So decades ago when other countries were going whole hog on the automobile, China invested in mass low-cost production of bicycles.

They have a very solid bicycle industry; then they created space for bicycles in many of China's cities. You have bicycle roads that are five lanes of bicycles. Definitely, the dominant vehicle is the bicycle; there's no question about it, and cars have to go around them, or wait for them, in most cases.

I think that China is a really useful example for the rest of the developing world, although other developing countries, especially outside of Asia, would very likely never be able to repeat the Chinese experience. They could take lessons from their example. I also think it's safe to say a walker in China has far greater mobility and better access to the things that they need to get to than a carless person in the United States.

Throughout Asia there is a lot of use of cycling, not only in China but also in India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Bangladesh, both bicycles and related vehicles like cycle rickshaws, and really heavy duty three wheelers that carry loads of goods. The are widely used, but they don't enjoy much support from government. In fact, in many cases, they are discriminated against, with governments harassing them, public officials confiscating vehicles. Maybe the most egregious example is that of Jakarta, where, over the last decade or so, over 130,000 becaks, which are cycle rickshaws, have been confiscated. They have paramilitary troops literally sweeping through the streets, and accosting becak operators and confiscating their vehicles.

They are dumping them into Jakarta bay. The ostensible reason for this is traffic congestion. These vehicles are slow-moving and they conflict with the motorized traffic, but in fact, it looks very likely that the real motivation is that they are trying to clean up the image of the streets. They consider the becak to be backward looking vehicle, and it reflects poorly on their state of development. There is a sort of half hearted program to give alternative employment to these becak riders, who are then out of a job, but thousands of them really aren't being trained for other jobs. It's not only a loss of jobs; it's a really important transport option for people who don't live near enough to a bus route to be able to be able to ride it, or elderly people who need the flexibility of being taken where they need to go. It's a big loss in mobility as well as in support of these becak riders and their families that they have to feed and clothe.



love

Definitely, the dominant vehicle is the bicycle; there's no question about it, and cars have to go around them, or wait for them, in most cases.

MATT:Does our government and U.S. based corporations look to developing countries as markets for automobiles and highway construction projects?

MARCIA: Most definitely. In fact, that's their overt marketing strategy for the coming decades. We're approaching saturation in the developing countries; nearly everybody who can own an automobile already does. They are very definitely just clamoring to get into Eastern Europe and into developing countries where the market is largely untapped. This is so in China: China for years has severely restricted private ownership of automobiles. But now farmers are becoming more prosperous in the countryside, and there are entrepreneurs getting enough capital to actually buy cars, there is a market there.

Certainly in Latin America: I think in all of the developing world, Latin America is the most susceptible to fascination with the automobile life-style. I don't know if that's because of proximity or because the purchasing power is relatively greater than people of Asia or Africa, but the Latin American countries are definitely considered to be huge markets for automobiles.

MATT: Everybody's probably heard stories about highways being built with International Monetary Fund and World Bank funds where they aren't used at all, because nobody can afford cars.

MARCIA: The World Bank has received a lot of flack for it's investment in real misguided road projects. One of the reasons is it doesn't serve them to worry about the people. Part of the argument for these big roads is to carry freight, when in fact much of that freight could be carried by rail, but more importantly, much of the freight in rural areas is actually carried in much smaller quantities on bikes or literally on people's heads. Small farmers in rural regions in the developing world rarely have a truckload of produce. They carry maybe a cart full. An amount that's too heavy to carry on foot by traditional means; head loading, back loading; but it becomes much easier with a bicycle, particularly if you attach a trailer to it. Then people can carry these loads easily and get them to market. What's more appropriate in those situations is not big highways, designed for trucks and automobiles, but single low-cost roads for non-motorized vehicles that the people can actually afford.

MATT: Michael Replogle said the World Bank policies are changing.

MARCIA: The Bank is reevaluating transport policies. They have one major project called the Sub Saharan African Transport Project. And it's reexamining these conventional techniques FOR providing transporting in Sub Saharan Africa It has components that include low cost roads that are designed to non-motorized standards. They can serve an occasional truck or automobile, but they are built with local labor and local materials and are intended to serve bicycles and carts.

I wouldn't say that there has been a massive shift by any means, but they're slowly putting out

Many people are shocked to learn that every call made to an 800 number puts them on a list, perhaps to be sold for marketing purposes, and that cordless or cellular phones are as public as ... well, public radio. Many states [including Washington] are wrestling with CALLER ID issues. Marketeers are linking our phones to their databases. Electronic mail and files containing personal records are no longer secure from crackers, snoops, or authorities. Meanwhile, Congress wonders if privacy encryption might be too much of a good thing. To learn more, tune into KAOS 89.3 FM every Tuesday at 3:30 p.m. or Friday at 6:30 p.m. for The Privacy Project, a new thirteen-part half-hour series that explores the threat today's modern technology poses for our privacy. In this, the 200th year of the U.S. Bill of Rights, let's explore how our freedoms are threatened by tuning into The Privacy Project. What you learn may change your life.

An open letter
Subject: Taxpayer Subsidy of Land-price Inflation.

Marvin Saillard

An open letter to:
The Honorable Dan Rostenkowski
Chairman, Committee on Ways & Means
U.S. House of Representatives
House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Subject: Taxpayer Subsidy of Land-price Inflation.

Dear Chairman Rostenkowski;

Every tax our government uses to pay for programs to treat the symptoms of our economic problems only causes more of the same kind of problems by raising prices, discouraging production, and reducing the number of jobs available. What good does it do to use taxes to create jobs when taxes are eliminating jobs. The luxury tax on large boats, which lost more taxes from lost jobs than it brought in from the luxury tax, is just an extreme example of what all taxes on labor and capital do.

The only tax which does not have such an adverse effect on the economy is a tax on the value of land. If a tax on land is large enough to take the unearned profit out of renting or selling the land, it will encourage better use of land and will discourage land speculation and land-price inflation.

Land-price inflation is the mother of all inflation. There is not a single product in our economy that we can have without access to land. Don't be like the economist who planned to live without access to land, and would have succeeded, but found that he needed food, clothing and someplace to stand. Every economist agrees that a tax on land cannot be passed on in higher land-rents.

Land-price inflation is notorious for making homes unaffordable to people who live on the wages of labor. Since every product in our economy depends on access to land, land-price inflation is making everything less affordable to those who depend on wages of labor for their income. It is only the landowners who profit from land speculation and land-price inflation that can afford to easily go out and pay the inflated prices of products on the market. Someone must be benefiting from land-price inflation because there seems to be a good market for luxury homes in Illinois. At least there was when I moved away from Illinois in September, 1990.

Landowners do not make land valuable. They merely take advantage of the land-value. They can lease, rent or sell the advantages of residential locations coming from view, from public streets and highways, from public service and public protection, from good government, etc. They can lease, rent or sell the advantages of commercial locations coming from public streets and highways, from public service and public protection, from good government, and from the presence and activity and taxes of all the people in the community. Land value is people value. The presence and activity and taxes of all the people in the community make the land in that community valuable. If the people moved away, land values would go away also, no matter what the landowner has done to take advantage of their presence.

Since the economic demands of all of the people in the community, state, nation and world make land valuable, why should the landowners be entitled to collect the rental-value of land as unearned income? Why should the taxpayer be required to subsidize the rental-value of land by paying for the public streets and highways, the public service and public protection, and the good government which help to make the land valuable to the landowner?

. . . [The Public] must pay the additional expense of spreading out public services to serve urban sprawl caused by developers . . .

Why should local tax assessors be allowed to under-assess and under-tax valuable land which is not being used up to its potential? They claim that the landowner who is not using his land efficiently does not have the ability to pay the tax based on the market value of the land. Any landowner that puts his land to the best use suited to that location will have the ability to pay the rental-value of the land as public revenue.

A serious part of the problem is that taxes on labor and capital in all of its forms tends to discourage people from developing their location. They can better afford to pay the low land tax and wait for the artificial scarcity of good locations to create land-price inflation which will give them a large unearned profit when they sell their land to someone who can afford to develop it properly.

The taxpayers who finance the public streets and highways, the public service and public protection, and the good government are subsidizing land-price inflation. They are hit with a double whammy because they must pay the additional expense of spreading out public services to serve urban sprawl caused by developers going out to the urban fringes and the countryside to find land they can afford to develop.

Most of our economic problems could be solved or alleviated by untaxing labor and capital and collecting all of the rental value of land as public revenue. Land speculation and land-price inflation would be impossible. Elimination of taxes on labor and capital would lower prices, encourage production and increase the number of jobs available. Rent-of-land collected as public revenue would get at the big money. It would do what the luxury tax could not do. People cannot live without access to land. Land cannot be hidden or moved away to another state or to another country.

Who in their right mind would want to move a business away from a location that did not tax labor and capital. Everybody already pays an inflated price to use land. With no land-price inflation the cost of using land would be reduced rather than increased. Environmentalists would find it easier to do their job when there was no longer the need for developers to go into the countryside to find land that they could afford to develop.

Chairman Rostenkowski are you going to sit on your hands while the economy of this great country goes down the drain because of land-price inflation and taxes which destroy jobs instead of creating jobs? Do not give Federal tax money to states which encourage land-price inflation through their underassessment and under-taxation of the rental-value of land. The rental-value of land is a publicly-created value and should be collected as public revenue to pay for all the public expenditures which only increase the unearned incomes of landowners.

How would you like to go down in history as the man who saved the economic system of the United States by changing its system of collecting public revenue. Of course, if you are hung up on your position of prestige, and do not want to upset the rich landowners, forget what I have said. I know that over twenty years ago in Chicago the air rights over the Illinois Central tracks, where the Standard Oil Building was to be built, sold for over a million dollars an acre. Now, in Seattle, land in a residential area of old mansions is worth more than half a million dollars an acre, and land in downtown Seattle is worth more than 17 million dollars an acre. Who knows what the land under the Amoco Building is worth now?

Are you a statesman or are you an ordinary politician. I invite you to do the right thing in the best way you know how.

Yours for collecting public values as public revenue,

Marvin is a member of the Washington State Georgist Association (A chapter of Common Ground - USA) Hamlet Hilpert, President 995 State Hwy 507 Centralia, WA 98531 206-736-3639.

more and more materials that examine these issues from the point of view that people just don't own motor vehicles, and to really serve their needs we need to focus on non-motorized vehicles and combine it with mass transit. But the policy people at the Bank don's seem to be listening to the people who are writing the technical papers. Some of the technical papers are really very enlightened, very insightful. But it hasn't gotten to the point where World Bank policy reflects that.

MATT: Is that a reflection of the mindset of the people that are responsible for these decisions, or its it a conscious effort to construct a world in a way that's beneficial to the ruling class in the developed world?

MARCIA: I think a lot of it is accounted for by simply the training of engineers in transportation. I think that they've been trained to adhere to certain standards that no longer are appropriate even in the United States, let alone on in a developing country where more modest, lower cost project are more appropriate. So a lot of it is in training and education that is lacking in a newer, more forward thinking approach. Part of it is financial factors; attracting money to projects normally means having a conventional project, and that's what people are willing to invest in, generally.

There's the factor of the image of non-motorized vehicles; being backward. There's a horrible stigma, despite the fact that bicycles are becoming more and more fashionable, racy and yuppie in this country, there's still a stigma, (in developing nations); even in China It's the "bicycle kingdom". There's really no country on earth that's more dependent on the bicycle, but when I was there, I found the attitude that people were reluctant to emphasize that, to draw attention to the fact that they are riding bicycles, because it somehow implies they haven't progressed far enough to have something else.

•*Yes, this is* **the** *Matt Love of Works In Progress.*

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To Mamas has the brushes"
"Losing oneself in Olympia"
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Love Connection

Matt Love

Star Trek:

The Political Analysis

As we move through the 25th anniversary year of Star Trek's first television appearance, it seems like a good time to evaluate political ideology of this astonishingly successful cultural phenomena, particularly considering how many liberals and progressives seem to have embraced the show. With the benefit of 25 years of hindsight, we can see that Star Trek, rather than being a visionary glimpse into a brighter future was in fact more of a mirror on an ugly present.

Star Trek's creator, Gene Roddenberry, could accurately be described as a Kennedy liberal, along with all that implies. In historic retrospect, Kennedy's so-called liberalism has much in common with Reagan's so-called conservatism. Many of the salient points of Kennedy's political philosophy, from aggressive foreign policy to a phony commitment to civil rights, can be seen in Star Trek. Roddenberry, a former Air Force pilot and L.A. Policeman, understood through personal experience the usefulness of force in persuading others to do things your way.

The three superpowers that Roddenberry created for the Star Trek Universe stood in neatly for the real life powers of the time; the Federation took the place of Unites States, the Klingons were a cold warriors vision of a brutish Soviet "Evil Empire"; and the Romulans took the role of Communist China. The Vulcans, genetic and cultural cousins of the Romulans, wisely chose to be enveloped into the Federation's co-prosperity sphere. They are clearly analogous to the Japanese. Spock, the most visible Vulcan of the series, was presented as brilliant and analytical, yet culturally unsuited for leadership, or even original thought; he was content to take orders from Captain Kirk, a volatile and at least partially unhinged Caucasian. The parallels to the racist notion that the Japanese can only copy what we do, are clear. These are ideas that persist to this day.

A common Star Trek episode might have the Enterprise making second contact with an alien culture, after the Klingons have financed rebel forces, attempting to overthrow the legitimate government with one that will establish ties with the Klingons.

After paying brief lip service to the Federations' non-interference doctrine, Kirk and the crew leap in. I would love to see the following Star Trek revisionist plot line: after decades of attempting to gain access to the markets and resources of a far off star system, using the tried and true methods of subversion, terrorist attack and economic blockade, the Federation has succeeded in putting in place a brutal dictatorship, which has pledged it's fealty to the Federation. The star system's population, seeking relief from the iron boot of their oppressor, makes contact with he Klingons, and attempt to buy arms. Or perhaps they don't.

Finding, or manufacturing, proof of this contact, the Federation directly intervenes. Many millions are killed.

Of course, we will never see this, any more than we will see an article in the mainstream media accurately reporting on the behavior of the Federation's model, the United State's government.

In one episode, the Enterprise (perhaps named in honor of "Free Enterprise"?) . . .

In one episode, the Enterprise (perhaps named in honor of "Free Enterprise"?) came upon a culture where people neither age or die; they know no disease, or pain, or hunger. All their needs are met by a computer. Captain Kirk's course is clear. By the end of the episode, the computer is a smoking heap.

"But how will we live?", asks a bewildered and sad native.

"You'll learn", answers Kirk brusquely, before beaming back up and setting his course for the stars. He is full of smug satisfaction, having taken away from them what made them different from him; he has forced them to live in the smashed remains of what they once had, confident they now will have to develop along lines more pleasing to him. In this regard, Kirk can be viewed as a type for Norman Schwartzkoff.

Fans of Star Trek often say that the show was ahead of its time in promoting racial and sexual equality. They bring up Uhura as an example of that. Promotors of the progressive newspeak of the late 60's held the quaint notion that menial positions were somehow

elevated and dignified by giving them longer titles; housewives were "domestic engineers"; custodians were "sanitation engineers", and secretaries were "communications officers"; (at least on Star Trek). Uhura's responsibilities, beyond opening hailing frequencies and acknowledging fright, are indeterminate.

Similar claims of affirmative action hires made about other crew members are equally spurious; consider Sulu, the token and generic Asian, or Chekov, the sad remnant of a space program that put the first human in orbit. They are mere cabin boys in function, whatever their titles might suggest.

Television's historic first interracial kiss took place on Star Trek, fans often remind the rest of us. But consider the context of the kiss; Kirk and Uhura didn't *really* want to do it, you understand. They only kissed because they were being mind controlled by powerful aliens. The episode's themes of dominance and submission, the interesting leather harnesses Kirk and the others were forced to wear, and the cleverly justified gratuitous presence of a Person of Short Stature all contributed to the lurid and exploitative atmosphere of this episode, more appropriate to an X-rated film than progressive social commentary.

I have few such complaints about the newer Star Trek series that has been running the last five years. One episode that seemed to be a parable of the Palestinian situation in Israel made it clear that while there has been much injury to both sides, it is the responsibility of the rebels to lay their arms down first. That is a thoroughly establishment point of view. Still, in almost every way, the new series represents an immense leap forward over the original; it is more progressive, while the times we live in are more conservative. It is troubling that many people still prefer Trek Classic.

♥♥♥♥♥♥♥♥

I recently learned that the Impact has gone out of business. Just last issue, I wrote approvingly of Editor Curt Hart, and his crusading investigative reporting. While the Impact's editorial stance was not one I agreed with much of the time, it seems to me that the whenever the community loses an alternative to the Olympian, we are all diminished. Olympia is a diverse community, and everybody, wherever they stand on the political perspective, deserves to have a publication that speaks to them. It seems like the Olympian pleases nobody, save their corporate owners, the Gannett Company, a huge communications conglomerate.

While some of "our gang" felt The Impact was conservative, I often found it to be bracingly libertarian. We should read other folks opinions once in a while, to keep us on our toes. Often the facts don't conform to our particular ideology, and we need to stay aware of that, too.

Works in Progress may publish some of Curt Hart's investigative reporting, written for the Impact, but unpublished there. I am particularly eager to see his work on the July 27, 1989 incident where Sheriff Gary Edwards shot and killed a fleeing suspect. Like the Paul Ingram case, the Olympian has fallen far short of fully informing the public.

♥♥♥♥♥♥♥♥

As I did last issue, I would like to encourage people to pick up the Cooper Point Journal for Chris Bader's series of articles on the Paul Ingram case. It is absolutely superbly written, and when completed will be the most comprehensive coverage the case has seen in the local press.

This could be seen as a sad commentary on professional journalism in this community, but it reflects conditions on a national scale. When Ben Linder was murdered in Nicaragua, the best press coverage was in the University of Washington Daily. The student reporters there were able to learn things that the networks and newspapers of record were unable to uncover with all of their vast resources.

It isn't just a matter of timidity on the parts of the domesticated media. According to the November, 1990 issue of New Dimensions, for an article published in Journalism Quarter, Prof. Adrienne Lehrer of the University of Arizona compared quoted remarks in 24 articles with tape recordings of the actual interviews. The rate at which the quotes were accurately reported verbatim: in news stories by professional journalists, 10%; in interview stories by professional journalists, 3%; in articles by student journalists, 18%. In this regard, I sincerely hope Works in Progress measures up to standards set by student newspapers.

♥♥♥♥♥♥♥♥

In These Times published a viewpoint article in their October 16-22 issue by Rob Richie. Rob lived and worked in Olympia for a time, much of his political activism centering around promoting Proportional Representation. That is the subject of the article, and he approaches it in the same thorough, logical and per-

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suasive way that he did when he wrote on the subject for Works in Progress. According to Richie's article, the current testing ground for the concept is in Cincinnati. If you think PR is the way to go, and want to try to get the ball rolling somewhere, send a check to Citizens for Proportional Representation, 42 E. 6th St., Cincinnati, OH 45202, or call (513) 241-0303.

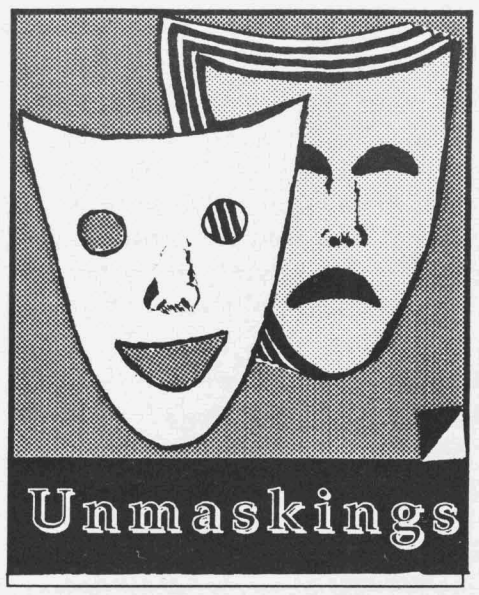
♥♥♥♥♥♥♥♥

From time to time I've used this column to report on Neighbor to Neighbor, organizers of the Salvadoran coffee boycott. The Folgers boycott is still on, and they recently reported success in persuading a national restaurant chain to abandon Folgers coffee, by organizing enormous consumer pressure across the country. N2N has also joined an alliance of groups fighting for a National Health Program modeled after Canada's universal government-run health insurance system. If you want to get involved in the movement for universal health care, call (415) 979-4722 or (213) 896-9992.

♥♥♥♥♥♥♥♥

"There are those who argue that the right to privacy is of a higher order than the right to life. . . That was the premise of slavery... What happens to the mind of a person, and the moral fabric of a nation that accepts the aborting of the life of a baby without a pang of conscience? What kind of a person and what kind of society will we have 20 years hence if life can be taken so casually?"

Jesse Jackson, January, 1977



AUTUMN IN AMERICA

Ron Jacobs

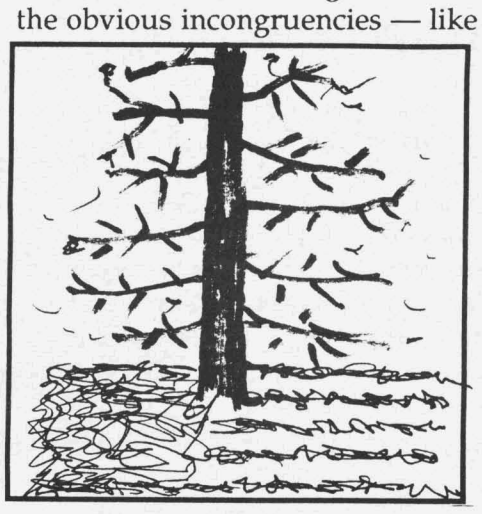
Clarence Thomas, unemployment, and professional baseball. It must be October. Bush and his cohorts (Slade Gorton, that champion of the unemployed logger among them) can excuse a more than half a trillion dollar expense to bail out their savings and loan buddies, and another few billion to kill Iraqis and other Arabs, but six billion dollars to extend unemployment benefits to those whom the "recovery" hasn't reached yet is termed a "budget-buster". In a country where baseball team owners talk about $39 million debts they owe from financing a professional baseball franchise while thousands of people go homeless in the shadows of their ballparks, such a perspective is to be expected. The message is, the poor are expendable, whether they work or not.

Don't get me wrong, I like baseball. To a fault, some would say. Yet, I am at turns dismayed and angered by its shortcomings. Of course, the players' salaries are inflated — a logical fact in a culture where entertainment is a high-grossing commodity. From sports to video games to movies, entertainment sells. Big. And the corporate heads and bankers make the profits. In the good ol' boys' style.

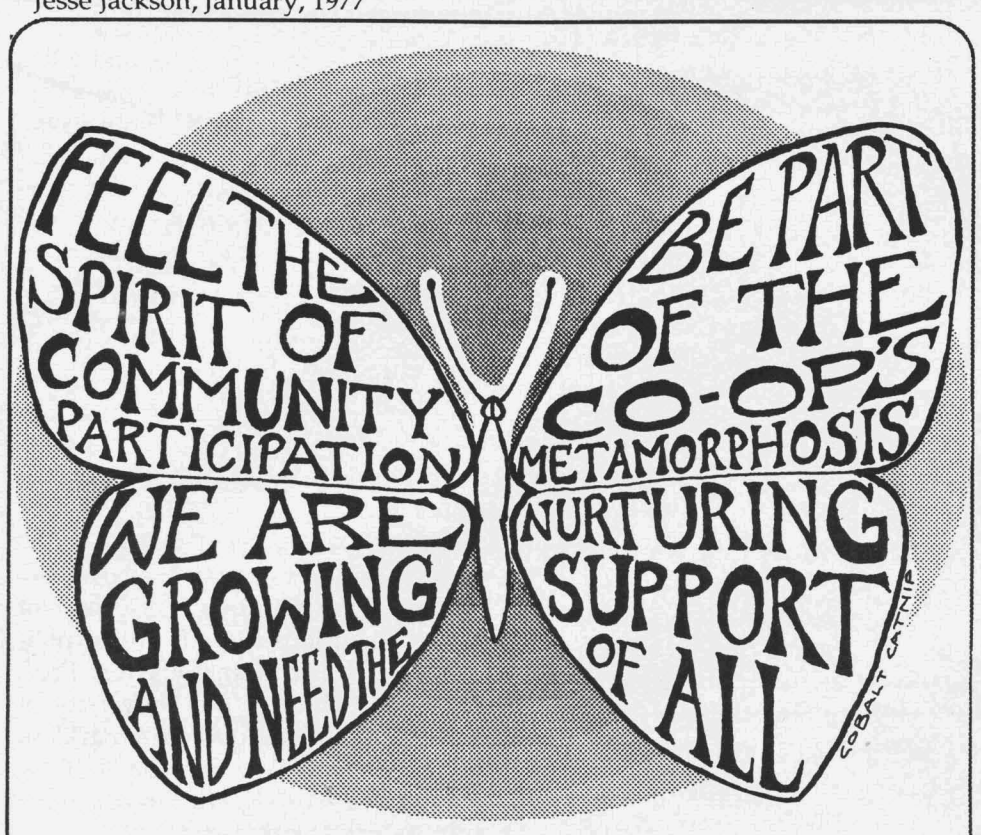
The pretense at shock exhibited by the senators during the discussion of Thomas' actions would have been funny if it wasn't so contrived.

Meanwhile, the rest of us watch...and pay. Some of us pay more than others, too. Like the rest of our society, those who pay the most usually end up being non-white and female, or a combination of both. In the movies, this dynamic is plain to see. From the stereotypical dumb blonde to the "Debbie" who "does" Dallas, it's clear what women's role in the entertainment business is. As for people of color, take a look at Public Enemy's new video called "You Can't Truss It". They point the finger straight at those who maintain the slaveowners' myths about African-Americans in this day and age. If we look at professional sports, well, women just aren't allowed to play, for the most part. Especially in the same leagues as men. Historically, it wasn't so long ago that Jackie Robinson broke the "color line", either.

All of which brings me to Judge Thomas and the hearings. Besides the obvious incongruencies — like



Strom Thurmond, one of the oldest living racists — supporting a Black man who happens to be married to a white woman, they were primarily a stage show choreographed by the Ollie North Acting School. They were, however, the first time in my memory that our twin structural malignancies of racism and sexism came home to roost on national TV. Especially Ms. Hill's testimony before a group of men about being sexually harassed by the judge. In my opinion, he did what she said he did. But to bring those charges before men who are all probably guilty of similar offenses automatically renders the hearings virtually irrelevant. The pretense at shock exhibited by the senators during the discussion of Thomas' actions would have been funny if it wasn't so contrived. Or maybe that's why it was funny, depending on one's sense of humor. That isn't to say the hearings should not have occurred. In fact, this line of questioning should have occurred long before it was a Black man in the hot seat. After all, wasn't he just doing what all men in positions of power do? In the good ol' boys style?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Boycott:
Mitsubishi Corporation Called by: Rainforest Action Network

Zachary D. Lyons

The Rainforest Action Network (RAN) is calling for a boycott of Mitsubishi which RAN charges with tropical rainforest destruction. "Mitsubishi has had a brutal impact on rainforests in Malaysian Borneo (where it has been a key player in the destruction of the homelands of the Penan, Kayan, Iban, Kenyah and Kelabit peoples) the Philippines, Indonesia, Chile (where it is clear cutting the last of the country's old-growth forests) and, most especially, Brazil, where its operations reach clear across the Amazon basin to the borders of Columbia and Peru," charges RAN in a recent Action Alert.

"The Mitsubishi Corporation is one of the largest destroyers of tropical rainforests around the world. They are part owners of several logging operations and also import millions of cubic meters of tropical timber every year," reports *World Rainforest Week* in its October 2, 28,1990 issue. "Mitsubishi is also involved in road building and mining in the rainforest. All of these industrial developments greatly impact tropical rainforests and the culture of rainforest dwellers."

The focus of rainforest activist groups from all over the world has been turned specifically toward Mitsubishi operations in the Malaysian states of Sarawak and Sabah. The US based Rainforest Action Network has presented the following demands to Mitsubishi International, The US operations wing of Mitsubishi Corporation, Japan: End their logging in Sarawak; end their logging partnerships in Sarawak; end their financing of logging or manufacturing operations in Sarawak; and stop the purchase or trade of wood or wood products originating from Sarawak.

"We are not one of the largest destroyers of tropical rainforests," responds Anita R. Keire, Assistant Manager for Public Affairs at Mitsubishi International. "...we are active in reforestation projects and adhere to the forest management policies set by governments in countries from which we import tropical timber. Further, we believe that it is unfair to boycott Mitsubishi Group companies such as Mitsubishi Electric, Mitsubishi Motors, Nikon Camera, etc., since they are managed independently and are not involved in the timber business in any way whatsoever."

But RAN points out that "the Mitsubishi Corporation itself is the trading company for the Mitsubishi Group, and supplies raw materials for [the other Group members]. Although we can't boycott the Mitsubishi Corporation directly, we can boycott its fellow members of the Mitsubishi Group. Group members meet once a month, and are certain to call Mitsubishi Corp.'s attention to the boycott."

Mitsubishi and the Rainforests is a two-page statement published by the Mitsubishi Corporation "to promote an understanding of the primary causes of deforestation." It outlines Mitsubishi's understanding of deforestation as follows:

"1. Deforestation...is a global problem...the tropical regions of the Americas and Africa account for 50% and 32% [of deforestation] respectively, while those of Asia represent only 18%.

"2. The principle causes [of deforestation] are poverty and population pressure...Shifting cultivation is a necessity for the survival of many people in tropical regions, and slash-and-burn farming is thought to account for almost half the deforestation. A large portion is also attributable to planned clearing for conversion to permanent farm land, and the remainder to timber cutting, most of which is used by local people for household energy needs.

"3. Timber exports are a minor factor. . .a recent report by the European Commission stated clearly that the export 'trade is not a major direct cause of destruction', and the UN research shows that only 4% of the tropical timber that is cut is actually exported. Local commercial use accounts for 13% and firewood and other uses for 83%.

"4. Forestry is an essential industry in many developing economies...For example, in the State of Sarawak in Malaysia, the forestry industry accounts for half of total revenues and employs 55,000 workers, most of whom are indigenous people living close to the forests."

But the European Rainforest Movement (ERM) takes exception with Mitsubishi's statements. "If we regard 'degradation' as a major form of forest destruction in its own right, then the timber industry has a vast responsibility. 'Each year over 4 million hectares of virgin tropical forests are harvested, becoming 'secondary forest. Under prevailing conditions most mature sterns of those few species with commercial value are removed (usually amounting to 10-20 percent of standing volume) but typically another 30-50 percent of the trees are destroyed or fatally damaged during logging, and the soil is sufficiently disturbed to impede regeneration, leaving a forest much diminished in quality'. [Notation theirs]."

...Mitsubishi has, according to eyewitness reports, reforested only 7 hectares of its 90,000 hectare concession in Sarawak.

The ERM letter continues, "Rainforests, however, cannot be regarded as a single biome; the word [rainforest] is an imposed generic term to cover a widely varied range of tropical moist forest types. Thus there can be no defence in claiming that Asia represents only 18% of tropical deforestation. Asian forests are unique to Asia, with species that are found only in one country, one island or even one hillside. Similarly the causes of forest destruction are specific and unique to each area."

'It would clearly be absurd to claim that deforestation in states with as low a population density as Sarawak and Sabah is due to population pressure," the European Rainforest Movement charged of Mitsubishi's statement that poverty and population pressures are principle causes of deforestation.

A key point is that Mitsubishi is the 14th largest importer in the world market for tropical timber. The true priorities of your company can be best judged by your own operations: whilst you talk of reforestation Mitsubishi has, according to eyewitness reports, reforested only 7 hectares of its 90,000 hectare concession in Sarawak. [Notation theirs].

"Similarly, while you claim that 'the forestry industry in Sarawak employs 55,000 workers, most of whom are indigenous people living close to the forest', this is certainly not true of your own operation, held by your subsidiary Diaya Malaysia. As pointed out in a letter to you from Wim Bergmans of the IUCN, Diaya Malaysia 'employs only 170 local people...this is nothing if compared to the ...250,000 people that live off the forest itself. [Notation theirs].

"It is not, we feel useful to point out how many people are employed in destroying the last of Malaysia's primeval forests; they are working themselves out of a job."

The ERM letter then makes the observation that, "In the light of the continued logging operations, what hope is there for the forests, the unique lifeforms, and the people dependent on the forests for their existence, e.g. in Malaysia? Even the Malaysian authorities admit that Malaysia will be a net timber importer by the year 2,000."

Rainforest Action Network, joined by the European Rainforest Movement and the Rainforest Information Centre in Australia, are asking that concerned individuals boycott all Mitsubishi Group products, including Mitsubishi Motors, Mitsubishi electronics, Nikon camera, Kirin Beer and Bank of California.

For more information, or to express your concerns, you may contact RAN or Mitsubishi Corporation as follows:

- Rainforest Action Network
  301 Broadway, Suite A
  San Francisco, CA 94133
  415-398-4404
- Mitsubishi International Corporation
  Attn: Mr. Makihara, President
  520 Madison Avenue
  New York, NY 10022
  212-605-2000
- Mitsubishi Corporation
  Attn: Mr. Shimoroku Morahashi, Pres.
  6-3 Marunouchi 2- Chome
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